

STAT

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
BULLETIN

E - 585,158
S - 666,546

DEC 23 1975

Guarantees are met

Confirm Mr. Bush

George Bush, Special Envoy to China, now awaits confirmation to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He has been approved by the Senate Armed Forces Committee, but his nomination must be voted upon by the entire Senate.

The Senate Armed Forces Committee approved Mr. Bush largely on the basis of two pledges that are essentially what this newspaper recommended last month. First, Mr. Bush has been removed from consideration as a Republican Party vice presidential candidate in 1976 — in this case by President Ford himself. Secondly, Mr. Bush agreed to remain in the leadership of the CIA for at least two years.

To disqualify any able candidate from run-

ning for this country's second highest office can be indeed foolish. And even the Democratic senators who grilled Mr. Bush in extensive hearings agreed that he is able.

But if Mr. Bush were under serious consideration as Mr. Ford's running mate, the President could have appointed him to a number of other posts — including cabinet positions. And conversely, the President could have named a number of other qualified candidates to head the CIA.

The intelligence agency, as well as the FBI, has special requirements. They demand an independence from partisan politics and a minimum tenure by the director.

With these requirements now met, Mr. Bush merits confirmation.